

This month in wjm

Physicians should admit their mistakes

When patients are unintentionally injured during treatment, physicians may avoid telling them because it's difficult, it's unpleasant, and they might get sued. On page 81, a questionnaire survey by Hingorani et al. of over 300 patients at an ophthalmology clinic shows that almost all believed they should be told when complications occurred. Only 60% of the ophthalmologists surveyed agreed. In his commentary on page 82, law professor Henry Greely argues that medicine cannot be free of mistakes and that admitting them to patients and to oneself should be an ethical requirement and a practical prerequisite to minimize future errors. But, he warns, we need a healthcare system that encourages rather than punishes this practice.

Cirrhosis mortality seems linked with consumption of spirits

Mortality from cirrhosis peaked in 1973 in the United States, after climbing steadily since World War II. This peak occurred several years before total per capita consumption of alcohol peaked and began to decline. On page 83, Roizen et al. report that cirrhosis mortality is more strongly associated with spirit consumption than with either total alcohol or just beer and wine consumption. On page 88, Kernochan and Yee argue that spirit consumption may serve as a marker for some societal change. They suggest that total spirit consumption does not take into account that only a small proportion of heavy drinkers consume enough to put them at risk of cirrhosis. Fortunately, as Anand discusses on page 110, hepatology has seen major advances in the past decade, although the only definitive treatment for end-stage liver disease is still transplantation.

Life as a medical specimen

Mark Gash is a 43-year-old painter, actor, and website designer who lives in Hollywood, California. He is also disabled by osteogenesis imperfecta #3. On page 135 he describes, without self-pity, the problems of growing up different. It wasn't only people in stores who pointed at him. Physicians, too, treated him like a specimen. At times, they made him feel like he was a stamp in their collections. Physicians, he pleads, should speak in a way that patients can understand.

Patients with disabilities need help with sexual problems

Disabling conditions can produce problems of desire, arousal, orgasm, or sexual pain in men and women.

Patients with an impairment that is hidden from others but that affects continence or sexual function often find the situation humiliating and avoid all social contact. Physicians often forget or are too embarrassed to ask about these issues. On page 107, Glass and Soni discuss conditions that may cause sexual problems and warn that patients can lose self-esteem and become depressed and may, without help, be denied the opportunity to have children. In an Op-Ed on page 76, Huang argues that physicians do not serve their disabled patients well by ignoring such a vital part of their lives.

How to care for patients with developmental disabilities

Patients with developmental disabilities can be frustrating to treat and expensive in terms of time and resources. On page 92, Doostan and Wilkes provide an evidence-based case review of how best to care for such patients. Some of their evidence comes from focus groups of developmentally disabled patients and/or their caretakers, organized with the help of the Lanterman Regional Center in Southern California. The review suggests techniques for caring for people with disabilities and ways of understanding patient and family expectations. It also looks at some of the ethical and management controversies that can arise.

Controversy over mandatory reporting of domestic violence

The US Department of Justice estimates that almost one million women are assaulted by intimate partners every year, and over half of these assaults result in injury. Up to one third of women injured in domestic assaults seek medical care at emergency departments or community clinics. Five states have mandatory reporting laws that specifically address suspected cases of domestic violence injuries: California, Colorado, Kentucky, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. On page 118, Bauer and Mooney provide background on the laws and suggest a way forward. Larkin and O'Malley argue on page 119 that mandatory reporting improves treatment and identification of the problem, while on page 121, Schillinger and Hyman warn that the law puts women at risk from retaliation and may deter them from seeking help. On page 125, MacGregor explains how mandatory reporting translates into the community and suggests that physicians learn about services available to battered women.

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www.thegrid.net/sconi.

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All courses listed have been certified as meeting the criteria for Category I of the ArMA CME Certificate and the AMA Physicians Recognition Award. To list Category I CME programs, please send information to Arizona Medical Association, 810 West Bethany Home Road, Phoenix, AZ 85013; or phone (602) 246-8901.

Brochures and registration forms are available from the contact person or organization sponsoring the program.

OCTOBER 29-31, 1999: Neurology for the Non-Neurologist. The Phoenician, Scottsdale, AZ. CME 11 hrs
Category I. Contact: Linda Main, Meetings Coordinator, MER, 1500 West Canal Court, Suite 500,
Littleton, CO 80120-4569; tel (800) 421-3756; fax (303)798-5731.

DECEMBER 10-12, 1999: Managing Respiratory Disease. The Phoenician, Scottsdale, AZ. CME 11 hrs
Category I. Contact: Linda Main, Meetings Coordinator, MER, 1500 West Canal Court, Suite 500,
Littleton, CO 80120-4569; tel (800) 421-3756; fax (303)798-5731.

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Mayo Clinic-Scottsdale Contact—Postgraduate Courses, Mayo Clinic-Scottsdale, (602) 301-7447. **U of A Contact**—University of Arizona College of Medicine, Arizona Health Sciences Center, Tucson, AZ 85724; (520) 626-7832; (800) 328-5868.



CALIFORNIA, HAWAII, AND NEVADA

All courses and meetings listed are approved for Category I credit toward the CMA Certificate in CME. To list accredited courses here, please send information at least two months in advance to Paulette Richardson, Continuing Medical Education, California Medical Association, PO Box 7690, San Francisco 94120-7690; or phone (415) 882-3387. For more information on accreditation or certification, please write to the above address.

ANESTHESIOLOGY

NOVEMBER 5-7, 1999: 11th Annual Anesthesiology Update. Monterey Plaza, Monterey, CA. Contact:
(916) 734-5390.

NOVEMBER 4-6, 1999: UC Otolaryngology Update: 1999. UCSF at Ritz-Carlton Hotel, San Francisco,
CA. 18.5 Cat I hrs. \$425. Contact: (415) 476-5808.

CARDIOLOGY

OCTOBER 7-9, 1999: 23rd Annual Cardiology Update 1999. American College of Cardiology at Carmel
Valley Ranch Resort, Carmel, CA. 12 Cat. I hrs. Contact: Registration Secretary, Extramural Program
Dept., American College of Cardiology; tel (800) 253-4636, ext. 695; fax (301) 897-9745.

OCTOBER 13-17, 1999: Coronary Interventions 1999. Scripps Clinic at Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines, San
Diego. Contact: Jill Hofmans, Conference Services Supervisor, Scripps Clinic. Dept. of Academic Affairs,
403C. 10666 N. Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, CA 92037; tel (619) 554-8556; fax (619) 554-6310.

OCTOBER 30, 1999: Update in Electrocardiography and Arrhythmia. UCSF at Radisson Miyako Hotel, San
Francisco, CA. 7.5 hrs Cat. I. \$195. Contact: UCSF Department of Medicine, CME, UCSF Box 0656,
San Francisco, CA 94143-0656; (415) 476-5208.

DECEMBER 17-19, 1999: Advances in Heart Disease. American College of Cardiology at Grand Hyatt
Hotel, San Francisco, CA. 16 hrs Cat I. \$490-565. Contact: ACC, Attn: EP, P.O. Box 7931, Baltimore,
MD 21279-0231; (800) 253-4636, ext. 695.

DECEMBER 17-19, 1999: The 16th Advances in Heart Disease. San Francisco on Union Square, San
Francisco, CA. 16 hrs Cat. I. Contact: Registration Secretary, Extramural Programs Dept., 9111 Old
Georgetown Rd., Bethesda, MD 20814-1699; (800) 253-4636, ext. 695.

FEBRUARY 13-17, 2000: International Congress 2000 on Endovascular Interventions. The Phoenician
Resort, Scottsdale, AZ. Contact: Erika Scott, 2632 N. 20th St., Phoenix, AZ 85006; tel (602) 266-2200;
fax (602) 265-8885; escott@azheart.com.

EMERGENCY MEDICINE

AUGUST 16-19, 1999: National Emergency Medicine Board Review. American College of Emergency
Physicians at Harrah's Las Vegas, NV. 40 hrs. \$895. Contact: Center for Emergency Medical Education
(800) 651-CEME (2363).

OCTOBER 3-5, 1999: Northern California Trauma Center Conference. UC Davis at Hyatt Regency,
Sacramento. Contact: UC Davis; fax (916) 734-4298.

OCTOBER 7-9, 1999: Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. UCSF at Grand Hyatt Hotel, San Francisco,
CA. 17 hrs Cat I. \$495. Contact: UCSF Department of Medicine, CME. UCSF Box 0656, San
Francisco, CA 94143-0656; (415) 476-5208.

OCTOBER 25-29, 1999: Topics in Emergency Medicine. UCSF at Radisson Miyako Hotel, San Francisco,
CA. 32 hrs Cat I. \$675. Contact: UCSF Department of Medicine, CME. UCSF Box 0656, San
Francisco, CA 94143-0656; (415) 476-5208.

OCTOBER 28-31, 1999: California Board Review. A Comprehensive Review of Emergency Medicine.
American College of Emergency Physicians at Paradise Point Resort, San Diego, CA. 50 hrs. \$895.
Contact: EMEDS; (888) 616-1711.

ENDOCRINOLOGY

OCTOBER 22-24, 1999: Clinical Endocrinology for Primary Care Physicians. Tropicana, Las Vegas, NV.
CME 11 hrs Category I. Contact: Linda Main, Meetings Coordinator, MER, 1500 West Canal Court,
Suite 500, Littleton, CO 80120-4569; tel (800) 421-3756; fax (303)798-5731.

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**ETHICS**

SEPTEMBER 22-25, 1999: Legal Issues in Damaged Brain Injury Cases. UC Davis at Westin St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, CA. Contact: UCD; (916) 734-5390.

FAMILY PRACTICE/PRIMARY CARE

AUGUST 20-22, 1999: Primary Care Medicine. Scripps Clinic at Coronaro Island Marriott Resort, San Diego. 16 hours. Contact: Cheryl Trinidad, conference Coordinator, Scripps Clinic, Dept. of Academic Affairs, 403C, 10666 N. Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, CA 92037; tel (619) 554-8556; fax (619) 554-6310.

OCTOBER 2-4, 1999: 7th Annual Western Retreat: Practical Primary Care. Scripps Clinic at Monterey Marriott. 12 hours. Contact: Cheryl Trinidad, conference Coordinator, Scripps Clinic, Dept. of Academic Affairs, 403C, 10666 N. Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, CA 92037; tel (619) 554-8556; fax (619) 554-6310.

OCTOBER 22-24, 1999: Clinical Endocrinology for Primary Care Physicians. Medical Education Resources at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas, NV. 11 hours. Contact: MER Linda Main, Meeting Coordinator, 1500 West Canal Ct., Ste. 500, Littleton, CO 80120-4569; (800) 421-3756.

OCTOBER 28-31, 1999: 11th Annual CME/Golf Meeting. Nevada Academy of Family Physicians at The Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV. Contact: Barbara Bolling, NAFP, P.O. Box 27713, Las Vegas, NV 89126-1713; (702) 228-5852; HYPERLINK <mailto:nafplvbb@aol.com> nafplvbb@aol.com.

DECEMBER 2-3, 1999: Controversies in Women's Health. UCSF at Cathedral Hill Hotel, San Francisco, CA. 13 hrs Cat 1. \$370. Contact: UCSF Department of Medicine, CME. UCSF Box 0656, San Francisco, CA 94143-0656; (415) 476-5208.

DECEMBER 10-12, 1999: Issues in Women's Health. Medical Education Resources at Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas, NV. 11 hrs Cat 1. Contact: Linda Main, Meetings Coordinator, MER, 1500 West Canal Court, Suite 500, Littleton, CO 80120-4569; tel (800) 421-3756; fax (303)798-5731.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1, 1999: Comprehensive Training in Sexually Transmitted Diseases. California Department of Health at San Francisco. \$50/day. Contact: California STD/HIV Prevention Training Center; (510) 883-6600.

DECEMBER 1, 1999: AIDS-Associated Malignancies. UCSF at Sheraton Palace Hotel, San Francisco, CA. 7 hrs Cat 1. \$195. Contact: UCSF Department of Medicine, CME. UCSF Box 0656, San Francisco, CA 94143-0656; (415) 476-5208.

DECEMBER 2-4, 1999: Comprehensive Review of HIV Management—Winter. UCSF at Sheraton Palace Hotel, San Francisco, CA. 24 hrs Cat 1. \$455. Contact: UCSF Department of Medicine, CME. UCSF Box 0656, San Francisco, CA 94143-0656; (415) 476-5208.

INTERNAL MEDICINE

AUGUST 22-27, 1999: New Advances in Internal Medicine. UC Davis at Embassy Suites, Monterey, CA. Contact: UCD; (916) 734-5390.

OB/GYN

SEPTEMBER 25-26, 1999: Ultrasound Update: 1999. Hilton Hotel, Sacramento, CA. (916) 734-5390.

DECEMBER 10-12, 1999: Issues in Women's Health. Tropicana, Las Vegas, NV. CME 11 hrs Category I. Contact: Linda Main, Meetings Coordinator, MER, 1500 West Canal Court, Suite 500, Littleton, CO 80120-4569; tel (800) 421-3756; fax (303)798-5731.

OCCUPATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL

SEPTEMBER 23-26, 1999: Western Occupational Health Conference (WOHC). American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and the Western Occupational and Environmental Medical Association at Monte Carlo Resort and Casino, Las Vegas, NV. 21 hours. Contact: Justine Abel, WOHC, 74 New Montgomery, Suite 230, San Francisco, CA 94105-3411; tel (415) 764-4083; fax (415) 764-4915; woema@hp-assoc.com; www.woema.com.

OCTOBER 4-8, 1999: Occupational & Environmental Medicine IV. UCSF at Radisson Miyako Hotel, San Francisco, CA. 40 hrs Cat 1. \$750. Contact: UCSF Department of Medicine, CME. UCSF Box 0656, San Francisco, CA 94143-0656; (415) 476-5208.

ONCOLOGY

SEPTEMBER 17-18, 1999: 5th Annual Cancer Research Symposium. UC Davis at Cancer Center Auditorium, Sacramento, CA. Contact: Office of CME, UC Davis Medical Center, 2315 Stockton Blvd., Camellia Cottage, Room 1019, Sacramento, CA 95817; tel (916) 734-5390; fax (916) 734-8966.

OCTOBER 14-16, 1999: 23rd Annual Physicians Cancer Symposium. Scripps Health, Stevens Cancer Center, San Diego, CA at La Jolla Hyatt Regency Hotel. 16.5 CME hours. Contact: Ruthanne Crawford, Stevens Cancer Center, Scripps Memorial Hospital 9888 Genesee Avenue, La Jolla, CA 92037; tel (619) 626-6756; fax (619) 626-6793; racrawford@ch2.edu.

OCTOBER 14-16, 1999: 19th Annual Nurses Cancer Symposium. Scripps Health, Stevens Cancer Center, San Diego, CA at La Jolla Hyatt Regency Hotel. 18 contact hours. Contact: Ruthanne Crawford, Stevens Cancer Center, Scripps Memorial Hospital 9888 Genesee Avenue, La Jolla, CA 92037; tel (619) 626-6756; fax (619) 626-6793; racrawford@ch2.edu.

OCTOBER 16, 1999: Cancer 2000: Progress and Challenges. Victor Valley Community Hospital at Victor Valley Community College, Victorville, CA. 8 hrs Cat 1. \$90. Contact: Yvonne Newton, CTR, Victor Valley Community Hospital; (760) 245-8691, ext. 3542.

OTOLARYNGOLOGY

NOVEMBER 4-6, 1999: Otolaryngology Update: 1999. UCSF at Ritz-Carlton Hotel, San Francisco, CA. 18.5 hrs Cat 1. \$425. Contact: UCSF; (415) 476-5808.



PRIMARY CARE

OCTOBER 22-24, 1999: Clinical Endocrinology for Primary Care Physicians. Tropicana, Las Vegas, NV. CME 11 hrs Category I. Contact: Linda Main, Meetings Coordinator, MER, 1500 West Canal Court, Suite 500, Littleton, CO 80120-4569; tel (800) 421-3756; fax (303) 798-5731.

RADIOLOGY

SEPTEMBER 25-26, 1999: Ultrasound Update: 1999. UC Davis at Hilton Hotel, Sacramento, CA. Contact: UCD; (916) 734-5390.

RHEUMATOLOGY

SEPTEMBER 23-25, 1999: Rheumatology Board Review. UCSF at Radisson Miyako Hotel, San Francisco, CA. 20 hrs Cat. 1. \$350. Contact: UCSF Department of Medicine, CME. UCSF Box 0656, San Francisco, CA 94143-0656.

GENERAL/MULTIDISCIPLINARY

AUGUST 24-25, 1999: BLS Instructor Course. American Heart Association at San Leandro. 11 hrs. Contact: CPR Seminars; (925) 754-7900.

SEPTEMBER 22-23, 1999: The Provider-Patient Relationship in the Context of the Hospitalist Movement. 14 hrs Cat. 1. \$350. Contact: UCSF Department of Medicine, CME. UCSF Box 0656, San Francisco, CA 94143-0656.

SEPTEMBER 23-25, 1999: Management of the Hospitalized Patient in the Managed Care Era. UCSF at Cathedral Hill Hotel, San Francisco, CA. 20.5 hrs. \$490. Contact: UCSF Department of Medicine, CME. UCSF Box 0656, San Francisco, CA 94143-0656.

OCTOBER 15-17, 1999: Physician Leadership Program. California Academy of Family Physicians at Laurel Heights Conference Center, SF. 20 hrs. \$1245-\$1395. Contact: Laura Johnson Morasch; (415) 394-9121. Web: www.familydocs.org/Orgs/hcli.html (e-mail: HYPERLINKmailto:HCLI@familydocs.org).

OCTOBER 21-22, 1999: 8th Symposium on Clinical Trials: Design, Methods and Controversies. UCSF Laurel Heights Campus, San Francisco. 12 hrs Category I. \$325 for physicians; \$325 for nurses and allied health professionals; \$150 for physicians in training. Contact: Registration office; (415) 502-1795.

OCTOBER 22, 1999: Aesthetic Facial Surgery: The Evolution of Oculoplastics. Renaissance Orlando Hotel, Orlando, FL. 6.75 hrs Cat 1. \$400-450. Contact: Amy Wood, The Professional Image, Inc.; (949) 760-1522.

MARCH 2-4, 2000: The Fifth International Conference on Continuous Renal Replacement Therapies. Hotel Del Coronado, Coronado, CA. Contact: Shirley Kolkey, Complete Conference Management, 1660 Hotel Circle North, #5220, San Diego, CA 92108; tel (619) 299-6673; fax (619) 299-6675, c-c-m@worldnet.att.net.

GENERAL

OCTOBER 1-4, 1999: Converse in Spanish. Maricopa Health System at Scripps Memorial, San Diego; November 12-15, 1999 Glendale Adventist Medical Center 36 hrs. \$695. Contact: Rios Associates; (619) 218-4875

OCTOBER 21-25, 1999: Masters of Medicine 1999. Continuing Medical Education Associates at Maui Marriott, Maui HI. 30 hours. \$795. Contact: CMEA, P.O. Box 57072, Irvine, CA 92619-7072; tel (800) 447-4474 or (949) 250-1008; fax (949) 250-0445.

JUNE 22-23, JULY 10-11, SEPTEMBER 23, OCTOBER 11-12, NOVEMBER 9, 1999: ACLS Provider/renewal. \$115. For details: CPR Seminars; (925) 754-7900.

LOSS PREVENTION

SEPTEMBER 22-25, 1999: Legal Issues in Damaged Brain Injury Cases. Westin St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, CA. Contact: (916) 734-5390.

HOME STUDY/SELF ASSESSMENT

California Physicians' Legal Handbook Series. California Medical Association. Contact: CMA, P.O. Box 7690, San Francisco 94120-7690; (800) 882-1262.

Breast Cancer, Early Detection and Control. Texas Medical Association. CD ROM. \$70. 2 hrs. Contact: Texas Medical Association; (800) 880-1300; http://www.texmed.org/health_science/hs_poep.html



COLORADO

To list CME programs here, please send information at least two months in advance to: Mr Robert L. Kennedy, Denver Medical Society, 1850 Williams Street, Denver, CO 80218; or phone (303) 377-1850. Brochures, course information, and registration forms are available from the contact person or organization.

TUESDAY NOON CONFERENCES: Various Topics in Medicine. Lutheran Medical Center, Wheat Ridge. Contact: Jean A. Kline; (303) 425-2951.

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH: Various Topics in Neurology. Colorado Society of Clinical Neurologists. Contact: Colorado Society of Neurologists; (303) 449-3566.

SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH: Cardiovascular Education Series. St Anthony Hospital at St Anthony Hospital, Denver. Contact: Rose Powell; (303) 629-3678.

CONTACT INFORMATION

U of Colo Contact—University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, School of Medicine, Office of Continuing Medical Education, 4200 E 9th Ave, Denver 80262; tel (303) 372-9050 or (800) 882-9153; fax (303) 372-9065.



IDAHO

To list CME programs here, please send information at least two months in advance to: Ada County Medical Society, Inc. 305 W. Jefferson, PO Box 2668, Boise, Idaho 83701; (208) 336-2930. Brochures, course information, and registration forms are available from the contact person or organization.

JUNE 10-12, 1999: 22nd Annual Snake River Medical Forum. St. Joseph Regional Medical Center at Red Lion Hotel, Lewiston, ID. Contact: Kolleen Wagner; (208) 799-5460.



NEW MEXICO

Information, requests for accreditation, and items to be listed should be sent to the chair of the CME Committee, New Mexico Medical Society, 7770 Jefferson, Suite 400, Albuquerque, NM 87109, at least two months in advance. For information on CME accreditation or on the CME requirements of the New Mexico Board of Medical Examiners, please write to the above address or phone (505) 828-0237.

NOTE: Course information in the following listing is subject to change on occasion. Check with the sponsoring institution for current details.

EVERY FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY: Building and Implementing Clinical Practice Guidelines at the Point of Care. Contact: Thomas A. Naegele, DO; (505) 275-7267.

AUGUST 14, 1999: Tenth Annual Update in Primary Care. New Mexico Hispanic Medical Association at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Albuquerque, NM. Contact: Kelly Little; tel (505) 828-0237; fax (505)-828-0336.

OCTOBER 7-9, 1999: Santa Fe Colloquium on Cardiovascular Therapy: Can Coronary Artery Disease be Stabilized or Reversed? What About Primary Prevention? American College of Cardiology at Eldorado Hotel, Santa Fe, NM. 17 Cat I hrs. Contact: Registration Secretary, Extramural Programs Dept., American College of Cardiology; tel (800) 253-4636, ext. 695; fax (301) 897-9745.

SATELLITE COURSES

Contact: Joe Treat or Jim Cato, Immunization Program; (505) 827-2366.

CONTACT INFORMATION

UNMSOM University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Office of CME, PO Box 713, Albuquerque 87131; (505) 277-3942.



UTAH

All courses listed meet the criteria for Category 1 of the Physician's Recognition Award of the AMA. To list AMA Category 1 CME courses, send information at least two months in advance to the Office of Continuing Medical Education, 540 East Fifth South, Salt Lake City, UT 84102; or phone (801) 355-7477. For information on CME accreditation, please write the CME office at the above address. **NOTE:** Course information in the following listing is subject to change on occasion. Check with the sponsoring institution.

MEDICAL GRAND ROUNDS

WEEKLY: Grand Rounds in Internal Medicine, Psychiatry, OB/GYN, and Pediatrics. Contact: UUSM.

WEEKLY: Pediatric Grand Rounds. Contact: PCMC.



WASHINGTON

The listing of continuing medical education programs in Washington state is compiled by the Washington State Medical Association. To list Category 1 programs here, please send information at least two months in advance to Continuing Medical Education, Washington State Medical Association, 2033 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100, Seattle, WA 98121; or phone (206) 441-9762 or (800) 552-0612.

Brochures and registration forms are available from the contact person or organization listed at the end of each course or in the list of course sponsors and contact information.

COURSE SPONSORS AND CONTACT INFORMATION: **CME HARBORVIEW** Contact—Gayle Splater, Cytology Continuing Education, Dept. of Pathology, Harborview Medical Center, 325 Ninth Ave, Seattle, WA 98104; (206) 223-5953. **PCMS CME** Contact—Executive Director, College of Medical Education, 705 S Ninth, No. 203, Tacoma, WA 98405; (206) 627-7137. **U/W (UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON)** Contact—U/W School of Medicine, Div. of CME, SC-50, Seattle, WA 98195; (206) 543-1050. **VMMC (VIRGINIA MASON MEDICAL CENTER)** Contact—Linda Orgel, Division of Continuing Medical Education, Virginia Mason Medical Center, PO Box 900, Seattle, WA 98111; (206) 340-2058. **WSMA Washington State Medical Association**, Continuing Medical Education, 2033 Sixth Ave, Ste 1100, Seattle, WA 98121; (206) 441-9762.



WYOMING

All courses meet the criteria for Category 1 of the Physician's Recognition Award of the AMA. To list AMA Category 1 CME courses here, send information at least two months in advance to the Medical Education Committee, Wyoming Medical Society, P.O. Box 4009, Cheyenne, WY 82009; email skeefe@wyomed.org; tel 307 634-2424; fax 307 632-1973.

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1, 1999: Tutorial in the Tetons. American College of Cardiology at Jackson Lake Lodge, Moran WY. 14.5 CME. Contact: Registration Secretary, Extramural Programs Dept., American College of Cardiology, 9111 Old Georgetown Rd., Bethesda, MD 20814-1699; tel (800) 253-4636, ext. 695, fax: (301) 897-9745.

JULY 20-23, 1999: Occupational and Environmental Medicine in Primary Care. Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health at Jackson Hole, WY. Contact: Registration Coordinator, The Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health; (801) 581-5710.

OTHER CME OPPORTUNITIES: Brochures and registration forms are available from the contact person or organization listed at the end of each course or in the list of course sponsors and contact information.

SEPTEMBER 14-15, 1999: Electronic Health Records in the Information Society. Stockholm, Sweden. Contact: C. Peter Waegemann, Medical Records Institute. <http://www.tepr.com>.

SEPTEMBER 30- OCTOBER 2, 1999: 7th Annual Conference on Management of the Tinnitus Patient. University of Iowa College of Medicine at Iowa Alumni Auditorium, Room E331 UIHC, The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, IA. Contact: Cheryl Schlote; tel (319) 384-9757; fax (319) 353-6739; cheryl-schlote@uiowa.edu.

Guidelines for Authors

Our readers represent all disciplines of medicine, but principally primary care physicians. We aim to publish manuscripts that are reliable and lively and that will improve the care of patients, the health of the public, or policies affecting either. Manuscripts should be of interest to a broad range of busy practitioners, physicians in training, and anyone who has an interest in quality health care. The purpose of a paper or letter may be to report, inform, alert, review, and discuss, but, above all, to teach. We aim to give quick and informative decisions on the articles we receive.

Manuscript submission information

Manuscripts should be sent to:
Managing Editor, Catherine Nancarrow,
WJM Western Journal of Medicine,
221 Main Street, PO Box 7690,
San Francisco, CA 94120-7690;
wjmsf@pacbell.net.

Manuscripts may be submitted via e-mail, but must include print mail address and phone and fax numbers of the correspondent.

Manuscripts must be original, not previously published, and not under consideration by another publisher. If preliminary data were included in another presentation or publication, this should be noted in the cover letter and a copy of that publication should be included.

Any conflict of interest, actual or potential, should be revealed to the Editors (see Letter of Transmittal). Research or project support should be included as a footnote to the manuscript and detailed in the Letter of Transmittal. Obtaining informed consent to protect patients' rights to privacy should be documented according to URM 1997.

All manuscripts should be double-spaced and, including references and abstract but not tables, should not exceed:

- **Original articles:** 2,500 words with a maximum of five tables and 30 references; structured abstract
- **Topics in Review:** 1,500 to 2,000 words with a maximum of 25 references; summary points†

- **Topics for Best Practice:** 2,000 words
- **Evidence-Based Case Reviews:** 2,500 words with two tables and/or figures; summary points†
- **Commentaries:** 600-800 words
- **Letters to the Editor:** 500 words

Structured abstracts

Manuscripts, except for case-based reviews, should include a structured abstract of no more than 250 words with the headings: objectives, design, setting, subjects, interventions, main outcome measures, results and conclusions.

Evidence-based case reviews

Interesting cases presented in an evidence-based, case-based review format provide readers with information and guidance with respect to clinically relevant choices made by practitioners—from diagnostic methods to conclusions as to what might have been done differently given the outcome. Topics to address include:

- epidemiology,
- differences in demographic groups
- an evidence-based approach to diagnosis, management, and therapeutics; ethical issues
- cost/economic issues; when to involve a specialist
- what research is needed in the area.

Use of diagrams, tables, and algorithms is highly recommended. Authors should include 5-7 bulleted summary points for a busy primary care provider.

Letters to the editor

Letters must be double-spaced and will be published at the discretion of the Editors. They may be edited for style and brevity. Those of a scientific nature may be subject to peer review.

Letter of transmittal

All authors must sign the letter of transmittal, with one author designated as correspondent and his or her name, address, and telephone and fax numbers included.

A letter of transmittal, except for one accompanying a manuscript from US government employees whose work was done as part of their official duties, must include:

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- a statement of **author responsibility** signed by all authors: "I have participated in the conception and design of this work and in the writing of the manuscript and take public responsibility for it. I have reviewed the final version of the

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- a statement that all human subjects involved in experimental investigation gave their **informed consent** and that approval was obtained from the appropriate institutional review board.

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All manuscripts are subject to peer review in addition to review by the Editors to determine the originality, validity, and importance of content and conclusions. *WJM* aims to introduce an open peer review system; reviewers' comments may be signed. Reviewers are required to state all possible conflicts of interest.

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All manuscript materials, including references, tables, figure legends, and abstracts, must be double-spaced.

Please submit the following:

- The original manuscript, two copies, and a copy of the manuscript (including references, tables, and figure legends) on disk (formatted for a PC/Windows platform and labeled with the word processing program used). Allow a margin of 2.5 to 4 cm (1 to 1.5 in) on both sides.

- Figures, black and white or color, in triplicate unmounted 12.7 × 17.8 cm (5 × 7 in) glossy prints (and transparencies for color figures) with the figure number, lead author's name, and top of the photo indicated with a label on the back.

WJM encourages the use of illustrations and asks authors to submit photographs for publication. When possible, patients should be asked to sign consent forms before pictures of them are published. This should be clearly stated and proof submitted with the manuscript. If obtaining consent is not possible, the reason should be stated in the cover letter. Changing the data on patients should not be used as a way of securing anonymity.

Figure legends, to be typed in sequence on the same page, should be in complete sentences. A letter of permission to borrow from the copyright holder (the previous publisher) must accompany any figures or tables previously published. The permission of the authors should also be obtained. The Editors discourage the use of borrowed figures or tables.

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A form for ordering reprints will be sent to the corresponding author when the article is published.

References

All references should be cited in the text using superscript numbers and listed in their order of citation. Reference style should follow guidelines adopted by the US National Library of Medicine. The title of the article, name of publication, year of publication, volume number, and first and last page numbers should follow the authors' names.

Journal articles

Abbreviations of journal titles should conform to those used in *Index Medicus*. List up to three authors; for four or more, use et al. after listing the first three.

Vega KJ, Pina I, Krevsky B. Heart transplantation is associated with an increased risk for pancreatobiliary disease. *Ann Intern Med* 1996; 124:980-982.

Books

Ringsven MK, Bond D. *Gerontology and Leadership Skills for Nurses*. 2nd ed. Albany (NY): Delmar Publishers; 1996.

Personal communications and unpublished data

The use of "personal communication" or "unpublished data" should be avoided and should not be included in the reference list.

For further information

Questions regarding the Guidelines for Authors may be directed to the Managing Editor in writing at the address above or by telephone 415-974-5977, fax 415-882-3379, or e-mail (wjmsf@pacbell.net).

Author checklist

- Original double-spaced manuscript and two copies, as well as PC-formatted disk.
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